21st August 1925]

Scavenging work in the Salem jail.

* 303 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: With reference to my question No. 1237 answered at the meeting of the 18th November 1924, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have already made inquiries as regards the members of the depressed classes who do not belong to the scavenging or toti class doing the work of scavenging in the Salem jail; and

(*b*) if so, whether they will be pleased to lay a copy of the report received from the Superintendent, Salem jail, on the table of this Council?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Inspector-General of Prisons reports that convicts belonging to the Pariah and Korava castes are employed on scavenging in the Central Jail, Salem. Members of these castes are employed on this work under municipal councils, local boards, etc., and the Government do not see any reason why exception should be taken to their being called upon to do similar work in jails.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know whether the Adi-Dravida prisoners who are asked to do scavenging work in the Salem jail were also doing that class of work before they were convicted?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"That is our information."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Is it not a fact that members of the Adi-Dravida community in the Salem jail were asked to do this kind of work irrespective of the fact whether they were doing that work before or not."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I am not aware that it was so. However, I shall look into the matter."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know the reason for putting the objectionable word 'Pariah' here while that word has been expunged from all Government records?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I am very sorry that it has been inserted by mistake. I shall see that it is removed."

Labour.

Recruitment of labour under the Assam Labour Act.

* 304 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of labourers recruited under the Assam Labour Act in the year ending with March 1925 from each of the four Ceded districts;

(*b*) the numbers that were returned as Sirdars or recruiting agents or other agents of the planters to these districts in the period;

(*c*) the number that returned from the tea gardens of their own accord and the number that were rejected by the planters, if any, during the said period;